



State Senator

August 2005

VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-southern Ingham counties

GOVERNMENT IN FOCUS: Education

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School Safety Package passes Senate

The senate discussed a series of bills this morning that will help protect our children while in school or at daycare.

The package of bills, House Bill 4402, 4928, 4930, 4932, 4934, 4936, 4937, 4957, 4958, 4991 and Senate Bills 616 and 617, will increase penalties for those offenders who knowingly apply to work for a school or daycare center. The legislation will also make it mandatory to perform background checks for all employees working in these facilities as well as for those employees who are individually contracted to work at these locations. A bill of particular interest, House Bill 4932, would increase criminal penalties for offenders (who are required to include themselves on the Sex Offender Registry) who are found to be working, living or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school property or other specified zone.

The package also features numerous sentencing guideline provisions and harsher sanctions for offenders who do not comply with mandatory registry updates. The package is expected to be passed by the Senate next week.

2005 Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the State Capitol

The Michigan Hispanic Caucus invites your students to participate in the 2005 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the State Capitol in Lansing.

The event is planned to benefit persons statewide by showcasing Hispanic culture the community. The celebration includes a student summit from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Lansing Community College followed by an opening ceremony at the Capitol Building. Mexican food will be offered for lunch on the Capitol Lawn, free of charge. Entertainment during the lunch portion of the program will also be provided.

The Michigan Hispanic Caucus will also be awarding scholarships and community awards at an evening dinner and awards ceremony at the Lansing Holiday Inn South. High school students of Hispanic/Latino descent who will be enrolled in a college or university by fall of 2006 are eligible to apply. Please visit www.michiganhispanicheritage.org for scholarship details.

The Caucus looks forward to your school's participation! Please RSVP the number of students that you will bring to the event to Karen Heath, Senator Valde Garcia's office at 1-800-516-0026.

